

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

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DRAFTED BY L/UNA;RSTOWE;JU

APPROVED BY IO;DRTOUSSAINT

IO/UNESCO - RDFORSTER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, PORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 19TH GC: MASS MEDIA RESOLUTION

REFS: A) STATE 289611 B) NAIROBI 13209

C) NAIROBI 13277

1. AS SUGGESTED IN REFA, WE WISH THE FOLLOWING POINTS
TO BE INCLUDED IN YOUR PLENARY STATEMENT ON THE MASS MEDIA
ITEM, IN ADDITION TO OTHER POINTS YOU MAY CONSIDER
APPROPRIATE.

(A) WE CONSIDER THE COMPROMISE RESOLUTION TO BE A VERY
POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE STEP BY THE GC. IN OUR VIEW IT
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REJECTS THE IDEA THAT UNESCO SHOULD ATTEMPT TO ADOPT AN

IMPORTANT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE BROADEST POSSIBLE SPECTRUM OF ITS MEMBERSHIP. INDEED, THE FIRST OPERATIVE PARA AUTHORIZES THE DG TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS ON A DRAFT DECLARATION " WHICH COULD MEET THE LARGEST POSSIBLE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT."

(B) WE BELIEVE THAT UNESCO CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SHARING OF ALL PEOPLES IN THE BENEFITS FROM MODERN COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, AND THE WAYS WHICH THIS ORGANIZATION MIGHT BEST GO ABOUT IT SHOULD BE FULLY EXPLORED. AS WE HAVE SAID IN OUR EARLIER COMMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT, WE BELIEVE AN EXPANSION, RATHER THAN A CONTRACTION, OF THE INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF COMMUNICATIONS WILL BRING THE GREATEST BENEFIT TO ALL PEOPLES. SUCH A FLOW MUST BE TWO-WAY IF THE MAXIMUM BENEFITS ARE TO BE DERIVED, AND IT SHOULD ALLOW THE FREE AND OPEN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION.

(C) IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY FUTURE WORK IN THIS AREA TO REMAIN AWARE THAT THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MASS MEDIA IN A PARTICULAR COUNTRY IS A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEM OF THAT COUNTRY. THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO SUGGEST INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES IN THIS AREA, THEREFORE, MUST ACT WITH CARE, FIRST TO IDENTIFY PRINCIPLES AND IDEAS COMMON TO THE MANY DIFFERENT POLITICAL SYSTEMS, AND SECOND TO RECOMMEND FUTURE ACTIONS OR POLICIES ONLY ON THE BASIS OF VERY BROAD CONSENSUS AMONG ALL THE STATES CONCERNED. ONLY IN THIS WAY WILL UNESCO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WHICH WILL BE REALISTIC, CONSTRUCTIVE AND RESPECTED.

(D) WITH REGARD TO THE ROLE OF THE MASS MEDIA, WE BELIEVE THERE ARE MANY AREAS WHERE SUCH BROAD AGREEMENT COULD BE FOUND AND WHERE CONSTRUCTIVE COMMON ACTIONS COULD BE TAKEN. WE HAVE SUGGESTED A NUMBER OF SUCH AREAS IN THE U. S. STATEMENT ON UNESCO MEDIA PROGRAMS (NAIROBI 13073), AND WE BELIEVE THAT BOTH PRIVATE EXPERTS AND GOVERNMENTS SHOULD FULLY CONSIDER THESE TYPES OF BENEFICIAL ACTIONS, RATHER THAN WASTING MORE EFFORT AND TIME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISPUTING DIVISIVE AND RESTRICTIVE POLITICAL EFFORTS WHICH WE ALL KNOW CANNOT POSSIBLY RESULT IN BROAD AGREEMENT.

(E) WE LOOK FORWARD TO ASSISTING AND PARTICIPATING IN ANY FUTURE CONSULTATIONS CALLED BY THE DG ON THIS SUBJECT, AND WE EXPRESS SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUCCEEDED HERE IN CREATING A TRUE DIALOGUE AND

AVOIDING A CONFRONTATION IN OUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS
AGENDA ITEM.

2. PLEASE CABLE TEXT OF YOUR FINAL REMARKS ON THIS ITEM
SOONEST SO THAT WE CAN PREPARE RESPONSE TO ANY PRESS
INQUIRIES HERE. ROBINSON

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